Rs. 25.89 to Rs. 26.20 with effect from 4th December, 1992.

Proposal to overhaul Textile Duty Structure

3258. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to overhaul the textile duty structure on the basis of Chelliah Committee report; and

(b) if so, when this new duty structure for textile excise duty will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) In view of the ensuing budget for the year 1993-94, it is not possible to offer any comments at this stage.

International Development Association Loans for Agricultural Project in Rajasthan

3259. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Bank has approved an International Development Associate (IDA) credit of SDR 73 million (about $ 102 million) to help finance an Agricultural development project in Rajasthan as reported in the Indian Express of 15th November, 1992;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of such supported agricultural projects in Rajasthan out of the 130 World Bank/IDA proposed projects in the country based on its recently announced strategy to accelerate agricultural growth through improved technical and economic use of resources etc.; and

(c) whether these projects will help Rajasthan in Management and conservation policies and improved development planning etc., if so, the details of each such projects in respect of which aid has been given so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) An Agricultural Development Project for Rajasthan has recently been negotiated with the World Bank for an IDA credit of SDR 73.1 million (US $ 106.00 million equivalent).

(b) and (c) The Project is designed to assist the Govt. of Rajasthan to implement its new agriculture strategy and its objectives are to (a) accelerate the growth of agriculture through improved technical, financial and economic use of resources; (b) enhance the long term sustainability of growth through appropriate management and conservation of natural resources; (c) improve equity through better targeting of development programmes to the poorer strata of the rural population. The investment components of the project include crop husbandry, horticulture, animal husbandry water resources, agriculture research and training, rural roads, project coordination and environmental strengthening.

Poor performance of Nationalised Banks

3260. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the nationalised banks are in a poor financial shape and are incurring heavy losses; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking to streamline the banking sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) As per the annual published accounts of nationalised banks, only two out of 20 such banks incurred losses for the year ended 31.3.1992. The annual accounts of the nationalised banks for the year ending 31.3.1993 are yet to be finalised.

Government and Reserve Bank of India have been taking from time to time such measures as are considered appropriate for improving the performance and profitability of nationalised banks.